

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Deadman Bench CSI project

Proposal Number: 1534

DWR Region: Northeastern Region

Lead Agency: Other

County: Uintah

Project Manager: Brent Bibles

PM Phone: 4357816733

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 7/1/2009

Project Location: Deadman Bench in Uintah County, Utah

Project Description: Improve habitat for sagebrush dependent species and provide an opportunity to conduct valuable research on the methods used.

Description of Problem/Need: The sagebrush habitat in the project area is not in a state that is adequately supporting the wildlife needs. The sagebrush is also in a state less than the desired condition because of invasive species and poor sagebrush structure and poor understory. The sage-grouse population in this area is small and poor habitat condition has been identified as a significant contributor to the current situation. The habitat needs to be completed soon to help improve the habitat and provide better conditions for the sage-grouse populations.

Objectives: Utilize several different methods of habitat manipulation. Test the effectiveness of these methods to reach desired conditions. Improve sagebrush habitat for greater sage grouse. Monitor vegetative response to the treatments. Monitor animal response to the treatments.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: Sage grouse are a Tier II species as identified in the WAP. The shrubsteppe habitat is a key habitat for species of concern as identified in the WAP. This project is also relevant to DWR management plans for sage grouse.

Potential Risks: Risk of cheatgrass expansion if Plateau herbicide is not used. Risk of failure for seed to establish.

Proposed Methods: 16 eight-acre treatment plots will be established using 4 different methods of habitat manipulation. Four plots will receive broadcast seeding and a double pass from a dixie harrow, four plots will receive broadcast seeding followed by a double-drum aerator, four plots will be drill seeded and will be grazed by sheep to reduce sagebrush canopy cover, and four plots will be broadcast seeded with sheep grazing to reduce canopy cover and work the seed into the ground. All treatment plots will receive seed and all will be treated with plateau herbicide. Supplemental feeding will be used to help facilitate sheep grazing in those treatment plots. Monitoring for the treatments will be completed by Utah State University-Uinta Basin.

Shapefile Name: 1534.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

Vegetation Monitoring **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Monitoring will be completed by Utah State University-Uinta Basin. Dr. Brent Bibles is lead on the monitoring portion of the project. Monitoring will be completed with funding provided by a Cooperative Sagebrush Initiative grant. Both vegetative and animal response will be monitored both pre- and post- project. Pre-project monitoring will be started this summer and will be completed prior to vegetation manipulation.

Grazing Management: The grazing permittee supports the project and will provide the sheep used in 8 of the treatment plots. Once the treatments are completed the area will be rested for two growing seasons to allow for seed establishment.

SPECIES BENEFITING

Greater Sage-grouse

Pronghorn

Shrubsteppe Birds

Domestic Livestock

Project Proposal

LAND OWNERSHIP

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Acres</u>
BLM	128
Total	128

PROPOSED FUNDING

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
Unfunded Balance	\$7,446.00		\$0.00
BLM (Watershed)	\$30,000.00	3/3/2009	\$30,000.00
Totals	\$37,446.00		\$30,000.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>DWR Account</u>	<u>Partner Contrib.</u>
Contractual Services	harrow, aerator, drill, broadcast seeding - \$35/ac	\$2,800.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	Plateau herbicide @\$277/gal, 8 oz/acre, 128 acres	\$2,216.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	herbicide application @ 30/acre, 128 acres	\$3,840.00	\$0.00
Seed (GBRC)	128 acres @ \$80/acre	\$10,240.00	\$0.00
Other	supplemental feed for grazing treatment	\$9,000.00	\$0.00
Motor Pool	vehicle mileage/seed transport	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	temporary fencing @ \$1.25/ft	\$4,175.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	installation of temporary fence \$1.25/ft	\$4,175.00	\$0.00
	Totals	\$37,446.00	\$0.00

Project Map:

